AAU PRAISES SENATE EFFORT TO GAIN SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS FOR SCIENCE

Eight U.S. Senators sent a letter on March 17 to the Senate Appropriations Committee leadership urging support for $350 million in supplemental funding in the current fiscal year for the Department of Energy’s Office of Science and the National Science Foundation. They asked that the committee add the funds to the FY08 supplemental appropriations bill that will be considered soon by the panel. The Senators are Lamar Alexander (R-TN); Jeff Bingaman (D-NM); Bob Corker (R-TN); Pete Domenici (R-NM); Richard Durbin (D-IL); Dianne Feinstein (D-CA); Ted Kennedy (D-MA); and Chuck Schumer (N-NY).

Following is a statement by Robert M. Berdahl, President of the Association of American Universities, praising their efforts:

We appreciate the efforts of these Senators to begin to correct a critical mistake made last year by Congress and the President. The failure of Congress and the President to provide new investments in science in FY08 that were both promised and needed is causing real harm to our nation’s scientific enterprise and therefore to the nation’s long-term economic competitiveness.

There is a bipartisan consensus on the need to increase substantially the nation’s investment in research that leads to discovery and ultimately to the products and technologies on which our economy is built. It is time that our nation’s political leaders move beyond rhetoric about our global competitiveness challenges and work together to fund the research and education programs essential to meeting these challenges.

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The Association of American Universities is an association of 62 leading public and private research universities in the United States and Canada. AAU focuses on issues important to research-intensive universities, such as funding for research, research policy issues, and graduate and undergraduate education. AAU universities award over one-half of all U.S. doctoral degrees and 55 percent of those in the sciences and engineering. They are on the leading edge of innovation, scholarship, and solutions that contribute to our nation’s economy, security, and well-being.